

# Hawaii Navy News



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Serving the "Best Homeport in the Navy"

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## In Brief

### Earth Day activities

April 23-26. Nursery Construction. The Nature Conservancy needs volunteers to assist with constructing two nurseries at the Honouliuli Preserve that will house native plants. The plants will later be planted at various locations on Oahu. Contact the Nature Conservancy at 621-2008 for additional information.

April 27-28. Plant native vegetation along hiking trails in the Honouliuli Preserve. For more information, call the Nature Conservancy at 621-2008.

April 28. Remove invasive weeds and plant native vegetation at the Pearl Harbor National Wildlife Refuge at Kalaeloa (formerly Naval Air Station Barbers Point). Call the Fish and Wildlife Service at 637-6330 extension 26 or 27.

### American Red Cross holds open house

In celebration of National Volunteer Week (April 23-27), the Hickam/Pearl Harbor American Red Cross and the 15th Mission Support Squadron (MSS) Family Support Center will host an open house April 23, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Hickam Service Center, 990 Scott Circle, Bldg. 1113 (by the Health and Wellness Center).

There will be door prize giveaways, refreshments, and information on classes that are offered by the Red Cross and Family Support Center.

Staff from both centers will be available to answer questions during the open house. The purpose of the open house is to promote the various services offered at both centers and to also encourage volunteerism. For more information, call 449-1488.

### Substitute exam

The E-4, E-5 and E-6 substitute examination will be administered on Monday, April 30 at the Naval Station Training Complex in bldg. 679 (first floor) across from the Lockwood Hall tennis courts on Pierce Street.

Candidates will muster in room 13 and 14 at 7 a.m. in the uniform of the day with valid military ID card. A listing of eligible candidates can be verified by visiting [www.psdph.navy.mil](http://www.psdph.navy.mil).

## INSIDE



MWR's artistic way to express yourself - Dance... B-1

## INDEX

Fleet Focus	A-5
Chapel Pennant	A-8
Movie Call	B-2
MWR	B-2
Community Calendar	B-3
Housing	B-4
Classifieds	B-5

## Seven remembered at ceremonies



PH2 Chad McNeeley photo

Adm. Dennis C. Blair, Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Command, pays his respects to one of the seven passing caskets during a repatriation ceremony at Hickam, AFB, April 13 for the servicemembers that were killed in a helicopter crash in Vietnam.

### Joint Task Force Full Accounting members, killed in Vietnam, honored at memorials

By Karen S. Spangler  
NAVY REGION HAWAII

"It has been said that the measure of a man's life is the difference he makes in this world. These men will never be forgotten by this command, the families of those who are still missing and a grateful nation," eulogized Army Brig. Gen. Harry B. Axson Jr., Commander, Joint Task Force-Full Accounting, during a remembrance service held for seven task force victims April 16 at Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel.

The American servicemen, along with nine Vietnamese, lost their lives in a helicopter crash April 7 in Vietnam. The 16 were part of an advance team preparing for the 165th and latest Vietnam MIA recovery mission which was scheduled to begin at several sites on May 3. That May

▼ See JTFFA, A-10

## EP-3E crew returns to 'overwhelming' welcome

By Alan P. Goldstein  
NAVY OFFICE OF INFORMATION

OAK HARBOR, Wash. (NWS) — Lieutenant Shane Osborn, pilot of the EP-3E hit by a Chinese F-8 fighter off the coast of Hainan Island March 31, spoke for his crew at a welcome home ceremony April 14 at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, where he thanked the thousands of supporters for attending the event.

"This welcome home is a little overwhelming for all of us," Osborn said, "but we do appreciate it." He said the support that he and his crew have received demonstrated the spirit of the American public.

Osborn also thanked his crew and had high praise for them, who he said "performed far and above the call of duty."

The C-9A Skytrain carrying the 24 crew members of the EP-3E touched down at Whidbey Island around 3:58 p.m. PDT (6:58 p.m. EDT) April 14. It then rolled to a stop on the tarmac and Osborn led his crew off the aircraft to the strains of Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the U.S.A.," and the songs of the Marine Corps, Air Force and the Navy, the three services represented by the crew.

The 24 crew members were met by members of their families, each carrying long-stemmed yellow roses.

Thunderous applause from the assembled crowd inside Hangar Six greeted the crew as they entered the hangar for the formal welcome

ing ceremony.

Rear Adm. Michael L. Holmes, commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Force Pacific, praised the airmanship, teamwork and conduct of the air crew and said they "made us all proud to be Americans."

At the mention of Osborn's name by Holmes, the crowd stood and applauded. Holmes said he was sure that the only course that would keep all his crew alive was the course that Osborn took.

Earlier that day, at a news conference at Hickam Air Force Base in Honolulu prior to the crew's departure for Whidbey Island, Osborn described the events following the mid-air collision in international waters over the South China Sea on March 31, when a Chinese F-8 fighter hit the Navy EP-3E.

"Contrary to some releases," Osborn said, his aircraft was flying straight and level, on autopilot and heading away from Hainan Island in international airspace when it was subjected to harassment from the Chinese fighter. He said the Chinese jet came within three to five feet of his own aircraft twice, and on the third time, the Chinese pilot apparently misjudged and the F-8's vertical stabilizer, where it meets the fuselage, contacted the EP-3E's number one propeller.

The initial result of the collision was the Chinese fighter began breaking apart and the

▼ See HEROES, A-2



PH2 Chad McNeeley photo

Lt. Shane Osborn addresses the media before he departs Hickam Air Force Base for Whidbey Island, Wash, April 14.

## Rear Adm. Konetzni: Changing a subculture from inside out

By COMSUBPAC  
Public Affairs

Large organizations are often accused of following Newton's first law of motion: A body in a state of uniform motion tends to remain in that state of motion unless another force is applied to it. In May 1998, the Pacific Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMSUBPAC) met such an influence. It was their new commander, Rear Adm. Al Konetzni, Jr.

"I think there has been some real change - for the better - but truly it was a culmination of the environment, lots of committed, hard-working people, and a little bit of luck," Konetzni said.

After nearly three years, he is relinquishing command of COMSUBPAC to Rear Adm. John Padgett. Since May of 1998, Konetzni has worked tirelessly representing the interests of submariners

and their families. And he has done so with unusual enthusiasm and candor.

As the commander of the Pacific Submarine Force, Konetzni has had responsibility for more than 11,000 people, including more than 40 submarine crews. Throughout his tour, he has relentlessly insisted every member understand and contribute to his three themes of efficiency, engagement and people. "Any success we have enjoyed as a force has been as a result of their efforts. Those guys really brought home the bacon and maintained fantastic operational primacy," said Konetzni.

### Efficiency

Following a decade of defense draw down, Konetzni inherited a submarine force in 1998 that was well along in decom-

▼ See KONETZNI, A-4

### Ford Island bridge run: For the birds?



Dan Gray photo

200 rainbow-colored pigeons, symbolizing Hawaii, are released minutes before the official start of the 10K Ford Island Bridge Run April 14. Jean Clarey, wife of retired Adm. Bernard "Chick" Clarey - for whom the Ford Island Bridge is named - released one white pigeon to mark the event, and was followed by the release of 200 red, white and blue pigeons. The pigeons are trained to return to their home base in Pearl City after their release.

Here are the names of the top three winners of the Bridge Run in the Military Category:

	Women	Men
1st Place:	Angie Song-Rodney (40:20)	Gerardo Avila (33:55)
2nd Place:	Tina Eakin (40:30)	Joseph Galvin (34:43)
3rd Place:	Asti Tomsic (44:09)	Dave Millet (34:48)